

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, July 20, 1808,  
from the Thomas Jefferson and William Short  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short**

Washington July 20. 08

Dear Sir

I have put off writing to you to the last moment and must therefore be short, as I am just setting out for Monticello. Yours of the 15th is recieved. We fix your departure by the next vessel se send which will be in about 6 weeks. It will not be necessary for you to visit this place as Mr. Madison leaves it on Saturday. We highly approve the idea of calling your secretary our messenger & your taking your passage as a private man, but we can recommend no one to you not knowing anyone. Lewis is worthy of it, but he cannot be spared & he is a Virginian. The salary is the same as former ones?. Mr Madison will lay down rules for your charges. The mission is in the first instance considered as special, to remain till peace if the Senate approves. Whether it may be permanent afterwards is not decided. In great haste I must place here my salutations & assurances of constant affection.

Th. Jefferson

FC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)